

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPTA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8041

INFO PANCANAL

USSOUTHCOM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PORG, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT PLANNING FOR TREATY
IMPLEMENTATION

1. EDWIN FABREGA, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF PANAMA'S TREATY
IMPLEMENTATION GROUP, SENT A LETTER TO GOVERNOR PARFITT
JULY 17 (WITH COPIES TO AMBASSADOR JORDEN, AMBASSADOR
POPPER, LT.GEN. DOLVIN AND LT.GEN. MCAULIFFE). THE
FOLLOWING WERE ITS MAIN POINTS:

2. GENERAL TORRIJOS HAS CREATED A "NATIONAL COMMISSION
TO ORGANIZE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL
TREATIES." IT WILL BE PRESIDED OVER BY THE VICE PRESIDENT
GERARDO GONZALEZ. MEMBERS WILL BE PLANNING MINISTER
BARLETTA, FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALEZ REVILLA, MINISTER OF
THE PRESIDENCY MANFREDO, "RORY" GONZALEZ, FABREGA,
PORT DIRECTOR ARNOLDO CANO AND BUSINESSMAN ROBERTO
HEURTEMATTE.

3. THE NATIONAL COMMISSION WILL HAVE AN EXECUTIVE
SECRETARIAT HEADED BY FABREGA AND COMPOSED OF OMAR JAEN
SUAREZ, FLAVIO VELASQUEZ, AUGUSTO ZAMBRANO, DAVID AMADO,
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ARNOLDO CANO, RICARDO AROSEMENA AND ROBERTO HEURTEMATTE.

4. FABREGA ALSO ASKED FOR A MEETING WITH THE GOVERNOR
TO DISCUSS "THE BEST WAY OF RAPIDLY AGREEING ON GENERAL
PROCEDURES" CONCERNING THE PREPARATIONS WHICH PANCANAL
AND THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT ARE MAKING FOR TREATY
IMPLEMENTATION. FABREGA ALSO EXPRESSED HIS "CONCERN

ABOUT THE NECESSITY OF PROVIDING TO ME, WITH APPROPRIATE ADVANCE NOTICE, ALL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE MEASURES AND ACTIONS" WHICH PANCANAL IS ADOPTING "WHICH MIGHT AFFECT PERSONNEL, INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT BEFORE THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE TREATY."

5. COMMENT: THE INFORMATION IN PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2 REFINES PREVIOUSLY REPORTED DATA ON PANAMANIAN IMPLEMENTATION ORGANIZATION. THE MATTERS RAISED IN THE THIRD PARAGRAPH REFLECT A CONCERN BY THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT THAT PANCANAL IS TAKING CERTAIN ACTIONS THAT WILL AFFECT PANAMA AFTER THE TREATY GOES INTO EFFECT. AS ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF SECRETARIAT PUT IT TO THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR, IT APPEARS THAT PANCANAL IS GOING AHEAD WITH "UNILATERAL PRE-IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY" IN SUCH MATTERS AS PERSONNEL POLICY AND DISPOSITION OF IMPROVEMENTS. THE GOVERNOR IS MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO TALK THESE QUESTIONS OUT WITH FABREGA IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. JORDEN

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